coast guard to intercept and board suspicious vessels or any other vessles intending to enter their ports, at their jurisdictional waters.

Appointment of more women doctors in the Army

4. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry propose to appoint more women doctors in the Army looking at the increasing number of aspirants in the force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of women doctors in the Indian Army as on 1st December, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Lady Medical Officers in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) are being recruited, based on Service requirement, through the prescribed procedure, on a regular basis.

(c) The number of women Medical Officers in Armed Forces Medical Services (Army, Navy & Air Force) is presently 756, out of which women Medical Officers in the Army Medical Corps are 578.

Benefits to Kargil war widows

5. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after five years of Kargil operation many war widows have not got any benefit from State/Central Government although a lot of things were announced at that time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of war widows who are still to get the due benefits; and

(c) by when the remaining war widows will get their dues?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Wives of Kargil martyrs have been paid an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10 lakhs each and have been sanctioned liberalised family pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased soldier. They have also been given Rs. 5 lakhs for housing and Rs. one lakh per child or Rs. 2 lakhs per family for education of children from the National Defence Fund.

The families of two martyrs have not been given the above benefits because of the cases filed in the Courts by their dependents.

In addition to the above entitled benefits, applications from 475 wives/ next of kin of Kargil martyrs were forwarded to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allotment of oil product agencies under the special scheme meant for them. 17 of these applicants have subsequently expessed their unwillingness for the allotment of the agency to them. Out of remaining 458 cases, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has approved agencies to 433 dependents.

Various State Governments had also announced monetory and other benefits for the dependents of Kargil martyrs, the implementation of which falls within the responsibility of the State Governments. This information is not centrally monitored.

(b) and (c) As mentioned in reply to the answer to part (a) above, all war widows of Kargil, excepting two, have been given their entitled dues. In two cases, namely (i) Smt.Suman, wife of martyr Gnr. Perminder Singh and (ii) Major (Dr.) Rajshree Gupta, wife of martyr Major Vivek Gupta, the payment will be made depending upon disposal of court cases.

Death of pilots and civilians in MiG crashes

6. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have compiled the latest figures of the total number of Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots killed in MiG crashes since 1971;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of civilians killed in these MiG crashes;

(d) the loss in terms of money suffered by the IAF pilots; and

(e) whether any concrete measures have been taken to improve the situation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 157 Indian Air Force Pilots have been killed in MiG crashes since 1971-1972 to 2004-2005 (up to 24th November, 2004).